

Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

DRC-01 /116 W

----- 086208

R 101605Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3901

INFO COMSIXFLT

USS LITTLE ROCK

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TUNIS 6842

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, TS

SUBJECT: SIXTH FLEET VISIT

REF: TUNIS 6646

VALLETTA FOR CDR MEUKOW

1. ADMIRAL DANIEL J. MURPHY, COMMANDER OF SIXTH FLEET, VISITED TUNIS FROM DEC 6 TO 10 WITH HIS FLAG SHIP USS LITTLE ROCK. ADMIRAL'S DISCUSSIONS WITH LEADERSHIP, INCLUDING CALLS ON PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER, WERE UNIFORMLY CORDIAL AND WARM. TUNISIAN OFFICIALS REPEATEDLY MADE CLEAR IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACH TO CLOSE RELATIONS WITH U.S. IN DECORATING ADMIRAL, BOURGUIBA AGAIN REFERRED TO SIXTH FLEET AS SHIELD NOT ONLY OF EUROPE BUT OF TUNISIA. NO NEW SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WERE RAISED. PRI MIN TOOK THE OCCASION TO EXPRESS GOT'S APPRECIATION FOR SIXTH FLEET ASSISTANCE DURING FLOOD OF LAST MARCH. PRESS GAVE LIMITED, BUT FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE TO ADMIRAL'S CALLS.

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2. VISIT BY ANY STANDARD WAS SUCCESS. WITH EXCEPTION

OF MATTER OF SIXTH FLEET BAND (REFTEL), TUNISIAN
GOVERNMENT TOOK VISIT COMPLETELY IN STRIDE DESPITE FACT
THAT THIS WAS FIRST VISIT OF SHIP FROM SIXTH FLEET SINCE
OUTBREAK OF MIDDLE EAST HOSTILITIES IN OCTOBER. IF
REGIME WAS CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE CRITICISM FROM
ARAB BROTHERS, IT CERTAINLY DID NOT SHOW IT. PRIME
MINISTER ATTENDED DINNER I GAVE FOR ADMIRAL MURPHY,
AND OTHER HIGH RANKING OFFICIALS APPEARED FOR ALL
FUNCTIONS TO WHICH THEY INVITED. THEY ALSO CLEARLY
ENJOYED THEMSELVES. THERE WERE NO INCIDENTS.
SEELYE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: golinofr
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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